

## Army will be modernised further, says PM

CHITTAGONG, Dec 18: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today reiterated the government's firm resolve to further strengthen and modernise the country's army to keep pace with the nation's march towards economic progress, reports BSS.

The main spirit of the Liberation War was the establishment of democracy, self-reliant economy and the protection of the national independence and sovereignty," she said.

"We have established democracy in the country. Our economic progress is on and we will further strengthen and modernise our army," Begum Zia said.

The Prime Minister was addressing the President's Parade marking the commissioning of the gentleman cadet of the 31st BMA Long Course and 10th Short Service Special Course at the Bangladesh Military Academy (BMA) parade ground at Bhatiabari here.

Company senior under officer Ahsan Habib received the Chief of the Army Staff Gold Medal for the best performance in military subjects.

Company Quarter Master Sergeant SM Anwar Hossain was given the Osmany Gold Medal for the best academic feat.

Agriculture Minister Majid, UI Huq, Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman, Communications Minister Oli Ahmed, Special Envoy of the Prime Minister M Morshed Khan.

### Russia

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boomed northwest of Grozny shortly after a Kremlin deadline to disarm expired at midnight.

Chechens remained defiant.

"Russia must withdraw its forces quickly and recognize our political independence," Chechen Vice President Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev said.

Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev had offered last-minute talks Saturday to end the fighting, but President Boris Yeltsin demanded Sunday that Dudayev sign a disarmament agreement first.

Yeltsin suggests a meeting between Dudayev and some top Russian ministers, but Yandarbiyev said Dudayev would meet only with Yeltsin or Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Interfax news agency said.

The air strikes came after people in Grozny spent a cold, anxious night in basements and makeshift bomb shelters.

Self-defense units patrolled the streets overnight and armoured vehicles headed for the city's outskirts. By mid-morning, traders were out at the market.

What is there to be scared of?" said 25-year-old Khaza Khutayeva as she peddled Russian champagne and American cigarettes. "I'm not scared at all."

The Russian government promised to use force humanely and urged women, children and non-combatants to leave Grozny. State-run Ostankino TV said Sunday that 67,000 refugees have fled to neighbouring Ingushetia.

Early Sunday, Russian tanks cut off the last three cars in an 11-car convoy headed toward Ingushetia from Grozny, near the village of Nesterovskaya.

Russian planes bombed an airfield as well as armoured vehicles southeast of Grozny on Sunday morning. Interfax also reported a rocket attack on Pervomaiskoye, northeast of Grozny, and Khandkala, an eastern suburb.

News agencies said at least two Russian soldiers were killed in skirmishes with Chechen fighters.

## Missing Mutalib back home

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up by somebody and was brought to Barisal town, from there he was again shifted to a private orphanage called Babyhome in the Dhammandi area of Dhaka, he said.

He was soon adopted and taken to Holland by William Weytes, owner of a recreational park.

But Mutalib could not forget his lost family. He longed to see his parents and family members again. With a lot of hope in his mind but with very little clues, he came to Bangladesh early last month in search of his lost kin.

On November 7, he went to Barisal town, lodged himself in a hotel and started the actual search process with virtually no information except for some fond memories of his childhood day with his family, he said.

All his initial efforts ended in failure. His problems were compounded by large number of people approaching him claiming to be his family members. He soon gave up his effort.

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On the occasion of the international seminar on Photojournalism The Daily Star held a dinner/discussion on Print Media and Photo Journalism at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday. It was participated by Eleanor Taylor, Picture Editor of the Time Magazine, Gilles Saussier of French picture agency Editing and Pablo Bartholomew of Gamma picture agency. The photo shows (L to R) Eleanor Taylor (speaking), Marloes Krigmen, Managing Director, World Press Photo Foundation, Serge Chalon of the Editing and Dilip Mehta of the New York based Contact Press Images. It was attended by editors, senior journalists, news editors and photo journalists.

— Star photo

## Arab-Bangladesh Business Forum formed

Commerce and Information Minister M Shamsul Islam has urged the Bangladeshi businessmen in Riyadh to make all-out efforts for popularising Bangladeshi products in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, reported UNB.

He also paid deep respects to Shaheed Lieutenant Ahsan and Shaheed Lieutenant Musfiq who had sacrificed their lives for the motherland.

### Donors

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told the WB chief, "the Opposition remains adamant in its pursuit to paralyse the economy."

He expressed hope that the Opposition would sink their narrow political interest and a solution could still be found.

Rahman maintained that in spite of the negativity of the Opposition the economy was progressing, but the Opposition's activities prevented the people from deriving the full benefits of the range of potential of the economic reforms.

The bank will have to take a more realistic approach to capture country-specific situations in its strategies," said the Finance Minister turning to the World Bank programme issue.

He raised the question of ownership of projects and programmes and greater participation of the borrower in project and programme development.

### DU strike

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his parleys with opposition leaders yesterday to resolve the political impasse through resumption of the Government-Opposition dialogue.

Sources concerned said that the Speaker had talks with the Deputy Leader of the Opposition Samad Azad and Awami League leader Tofail Ahmed yesterday in his bid to bring about a solution to the crisis created over the caretaker government issue.

Details of Speaker's discussion with the opposition leaders were not available but some sources indicated that the talks centred on possibilities of resuming the dialogue.

The Speaker is likely to continue his efforts and have more talks with other leaders of the opposition camp.

The Speaker had earlier held several rounds of talks with opposition leaders including Moudud Ahmed, Rashed Khan Menon and Matiur Rahman Nizami.

### Action plan

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ing remained closed yesterday.

Meanwhile, the university authorities were firm on their decision of holding the examinations as per schedule. But new timings for the examinations would be announced sometime next week, DU sources said.

A meeting of the Deans of faculties and chairmen and senior teachers of different departments of Arts and Social Science faculties Saturday, chaired by the Vice-Chancellor decided to change timings of some examinations during the Ramzan.

Meanwhile, the supporters of yesterday's strike brought out a procession and held a rally on the campus.

He was joint convenor of Ward Number 76 unit of Juba League.

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**Sheikh Hasina**

UNB adds: Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina yesterday accused the government of planned terrorism to stick to power and warned that the consequences will not be good.

"BNP wants to prolong its autocracy keeping people hostage by creating terrorism ... it is pushing the country towards a confrontation," she told a meeting arranged to console the killing of a Juba League worker in the city.

His body was brought to Awami League central office from Salimullah Medical College Hospital after autopsy in the afternoon.

Hasina said the current struggle for ensuring the rights to vote and food cannot be suppressed by resorting to the rights.

Following the incident, the DMCH authorities and the ministry formed two probe bodies, but these are yet to file their reports.

and returned to Dhaka.

But he could not give up as the urge to see his family grew even stronger. He came back to Barisal and resumed his lonely search and spread the word that anyone claiming to be his family members has to be able to match some of his recollections from his childhood days.

Per chance he met a man named Moslem, who happened to know the story of the lost child, and guided Mutalib to a hut in Dhulia village under Baufa thana of Patuakhali district and the recollections of the family members matched the.

So, after long 17 years, earlier this month Mutalib met his mother, a brother and a sister. But he missed meeting his father, Yakub Ali Howlader, a farmer, who died a few years ago.

After staying with his family for a few days Mutalib returned to Holland on December 16, having completed his self-appointed mission, sure to return again to see his family.

## Campaign for DUTA polls heats up

By DU Correspondent

The polling will take place at the Dhaka University club from 10 am to 2 pm.

Professor Aminul Islam will be the election commissioner for the DUTA polls.

### MBBS admission

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Medical College and Chittagong Medical College one hundred fifty each, Mymensingh Medical College, Sher-e-Bangla Medical College, Banasree MAG Osmani Medical College, Rajshahi Medical College and Rangpur Medical College one hundred twenty five each and fifty each in the new five medical colleges.

The new medical colleges are the Comilla Medical College, Faridpur Medical College, Bogra Medical College, Khuinal Medical College and Dinajpur Medical College.

There are one hundred and forty marks, including one hundred in written and twenty in viva voce, for the admission test.

Last year, the admission test was held on December 17.

The students who get at least twelve hundred marks in the SSC and HSC examinations can apply for the admission test.

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## Juba League leader killed

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where the autopsy was done yesterday.

Police said the murder was committed because of rivalry between two groups in the locality. Ashraf was also wanted in some criminal cases lying with the Sutrapur police.

He was joint convenor of Ward Number 76 unit of Juba League.

Awami League leader Begum Matia Chowdhury, MP, and Juba League Chairman Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, MP, joint secretary Jahangir Kabir Nanak and Amir Hossain Gazi also addressed the meeting.

**AL mass contact**

From Page 1 Col 5

districts during the nine-day tour before December 27, the deadline set by the Opposition for the government to accept the demand for a caretaker administration.

The Opposition MPs plan to submit their resignation letters to the Speaker after holding separate rallies in the city on December 28. They are also likely to announce their next course of action at the rallies.

**repression and killing. "We are waging a peaceful agitation while the BNP is trying to suppress it by terrorism," she said.**

The Awami League president accused the prime minister of patronising terrorism and said people would give an appropriate reply to these heinous acts by wresting victory of the current agitation.

Awami League leader Begum Matia Chowdhury, MP, and Juba League Chairman Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, MP, joint secretary Jahangir Kabir Nanak and Amir Hossain Gazi also addressed the meeting.

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**White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta, appearing on CNN Saturday, questioned Carter's ability to resolve Bosnian issues because they are very complicated and because we have seen that, frankly, the motives ... involved here with the parties are always suspect.**

A statement from the Carter Centre in Atlanta said Carter decided to make the trip after "extensive discussions" with the White House and UN officials.

**"My purpose in travelling to the region is to seek ways to contribute to the cessation of hostilities and to encourage the acceptance of the contact group's plan as the basis for negotiations," he said.**

The former Democratic President was accompanied by his wife, Rosalynn, and two negotiators.

White House officials urged Carter before his departure to avoid new initiatives and seek Serb acceptance of a peace plan drawn up by a big power contact group comprising the United States, Britain, France, Germany and Russia.

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